UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Distr.: GENERAL

E/ECA/TPCW.13/1/Add.1/Rev.1
9 April 1992

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Thirteenth meeting of the Technical
Preparatory Committee of the Whole

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
10-16 April 1992

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting (agenda item 1)

The formal opening of the thirteenth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole will take place at Africa Hall, headquarters of the Economic Commission for Africa, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on Friday, 10 April 1992 at 11.00 a.m.

2. Election of officers (agenda item 2)

In accordance with rules 14 and 15 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole will elect, from among the representatives of member States, a Chairman, a first Vice-Chairman, a second Vice-Chairman and a Rapporteur. The outgoing officers of the Committee will remain in office until the election of their successors. They are eligible for re-election.

3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work (agenda item 3)

In accordance with rule 9 of the Commission's rules of procedure, the meeting will adopt its agenda and establish the procedure for the conduct of its business (documents E/ECA/TPCW.13/1 and E/ECA/TPCW.13/1/Add.1).

PART I. Preliminary review of Africa's economic and social performance in 1991 and prospects for 1992 (agenda item 4)

4.1 Economic Report on Africa 1992

The Committee will consider the Economic Report on Africa 1992. The report reviews the main socio-economic trends in the African region in 1991 and provides an outlook for 1992. It will be the tenth annual Economic Report on Africa, and it is presented with the objective of providing on an annual basis an account of the state of the African economy, an analysis of recent economic performance and summary forecasts of the future (document E/ECA/CM.18/2).

4.2 Biennial report of the Executive Secretary, 1990-1991

Under this agenda item, the biennial report of the Executive Secretary which gives a general overview of the activities, programmes, events and developments of the biennium within the secretariat and the Commission will be reviewed by the Committee. It will further review the record of the Commission in its role as coordinator, catalyst and stimulator of Africa's development (document E/ECA/CM.18/3).

4.3 New directions of the Economic Commission for Africa

The Committee will be requested to consider proposals and recommendations by the Executive Secretary on the policy orientation, programmes and management capacity of ECA (document E/ECA/CM.18/4).

PART II. Transformation, recovery and adjustment (agenda item 5)

5. Implementation of regional development strategies: Update

The Committee will review the progress made by African countries in the implementation of regional development strategies, inter alia, the Lagos Plan of Action, the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-economic Recovery and Transformation (AAF-SAP), and the African Charter for Popular Particpation in Development and Transformation. It will critically examine whether the objectives and principles of the regional development strategies were faithfully reflected in the countries' development programmes and plans and assess the extent to which they have influenced development in the African region. Guidelines as to the line of action that the African countries should follow, including the need for policy coordination in strategic areas and for accelerated implementation of regional strategies, will also be examined by the Committee (document E/ECA/CM.18/5).

PART III. Issues, studies and reports on regional cooperation for development in Africa (agenda item 6)

6A. Regional economic integration issues

Under this agenda item, the Committee will critically review the criteria for the identification of subregional projects; first, it will review the criteria used by two regional programmes, namely the second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (UNTACDA II) and the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA II), and will then consider the criteria used by some subregional economic groupings. Finally, it will attempt to set up criteria for the selection of inter-subregional projects in the context of the recently created African Economic Community (document E/ECA/CM.18/6).

6B. Sectoral issues on regional economic integration

(i) Agriculture and environment

Among the crucial current issues to which particular attention should be accorded in 1992 and throughout the 1990s are those pertaining to the prevention of environmental degradation and the reinforcement of efforts aimed at the promotion of the African Economic Community. Ostensibly, the way in which subregional and regional development projects in the agriculture and rural sector are formulated and executed will have a significant impact on the region's environmental setting, and on its commitment to the establishment of the proposed African Economic Community. The Committee will consider a report by the secretariat that examines the basic constraints to effectiveness of projects and programmes including the manner in which they are formulated, the level at which intergovernmental institutions that implement, monitor and evaluate them are funded and the regularity with which contributions by member States to these

institutions are paid. The Committee will then recommend policy decisions and strategies to resolve these problems including rationalization of the existing development institutions as well as ways and means of improving coordination and harmonization among them (document E/ECA/CM.18/7).

(ii) Population issues in Africa

The Committee will critically examine the current strategy of the population programme aimed at addressing the issue of population dynamics and distribution in relation to development objectives in general, and in particular, intended to effect reductions in fertility through the creation of awareness vis-a-vis the importance of population factors in the development process; in addition, the Committee will assess the extent to which the current strategy is likely to meet its objectives in the near future, given the current population momentum. Alternative ways and means for resolving population problems that are eroding the realization of development objectives will be identified by the Committee, particularly in the context of recent developments in the regional population programme, including funding, and their effects. The Committee will finally consider a new orientation for addressing regional population issues (document E/ECA/CM.18/8).

(iii) Information for development

a. In the context of the emerging African Economic Community, the Committee will consider policy implications in the acquisition and utilization of information technology. It will also be requested to endorse recommendations relating to quality control in what is imported to Africa in the form of information technology, its utilization, as well as modalities of having access to appropriate information (document E/ECA/CM.18/9).

b. In the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in the 1990s, adopted by the ECA Conference of Ministers through its resolution 683 (XXV) at its sixteenth meeting held in May 1990, the Commission was requested to further review and elaborate on the Plan of Action and formulate detailed strategies for its implementation. The Committee will be appraised of the relevant action taken by the Commission, particularly as regards the formulation of the overall strategy (document E/ECA/CM.18/10).

(iv) Transport and communications in Africa

A progress report on the implementation of the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (UNTACDA II) will be reviewed by the Committee. It will focus on such main issues as the restructuring of the subsectoral working groups, the linkage between UNTACDA II and other parallel transport and communications programmes in Africa, thereby making appropriate decisions as required (document E/ECA/CM.18/11).

(v) Industrial development in Africa

The Committee will examine an account of actions taken as follow-up to resolution 709 (XXVI), including the organization of the tenth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry, consideration by ECOSOC of the above resolution, as well as decisions taken at the fourth session of the General Conference of UNIDO and the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly on the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa. The Committee will recommend decisions on further actions required for the implementation of the programme of the second Decade, especially the support required from ECA to member States and intergovernmental organizations (document E/ECA/CM.18/12).

(vi) Natural resources and environment in Africa

An update on the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development which will be held in Brazil in June 1992 will be considered by the Committee (E/ECA/CM.18/13).

(vii) Trade and development finance in Africa

The Committee will consider Africa's preparations for and participation in UNCTAD VIII, focusing, particularly on the possible implications on the African economies of UNCTAD VIII, the possible conclusions of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTNs), as well as the African Common Position on UNCTAD VIII adopted during the Ministerial Meeting held in Lusaka in September 1991 in preparation for the meeting of the Group of Seventy-Seven (G77). The Committee will also consider policy decisions in the light of the Lusaka Declaration and what may emanate from the seventh ministerial meeting of the G77 and the conclusions of the Uruguay Round (E/ECA/CM.18/14).

PART IV. Issues from subsidiary organs and sectoral bodies of the Commission calling for action by the Conference of Ministers (agenda item 7)

Under this agenda item, the Committee will review the recommendations, resolutions and decisions taken by the subsidiary organs and sectoral bodies of the Commission that have held meetings since the last session of the Commission with a view to endorsing them (document E/ECA/CM.18/15).

PART V. Statutory issues (agenda item 8)

The Committee will be appraised of the various actions that have been taken by the secretariat in the implementation of the resolutions and decisions adopted at the twenty-sixth session of the Commission, and of various resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session. These include those recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council at its third regular session in 1991, and other resolutions and decisions from the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly which are of interest to Africa (documents E/ECA/CM.18/16 and E/ECA/CM.18/17).

PART VI. Programme of work and priorities of the Commission (agenda item 9)

9(a). Proposals for updating the 1992-1993 programme of work

Under this agenda item, the Committee will review the secretariat's performance in implementing the work programme during the second year of the biennium 1990-1991. It will also review any problems encountered in the launching of the 1992-1993 work programme and consider endorsement of proposals for its update (document E/ECA/CM.18/18).

9(b). Progress report on ECA Regional Advisory Services

The Committee will consider the secretariat's progress report on the activities of the ECA Multi-disciplinary Regional Advisory Group (ECA-MRAG) in 1991. The report also highlights issues related to the operational framework, organization and the management of the Group, its relations with the other ECA substantive divisions/offices, the interactions with the MULPOCs, the member States and their intergovernmental organizations, as well as the proposed work programme for 1992. The Committee will be requested to consider endorsement of the ECA-MRAG work programme for 1992 (document E/ECA/CM.18/19).

9(c). Revision of the Medium-term Plan, 1992-1997

Under this agenda item, the Committee will be requested to consider endorsing ECA's proposed revisions of the Medium-term Plan, 1992-1997, in accordance with instructions from the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Financial Controller (document E/ECA/CM.18/20).

PART VII. Extrabudgetary resources and operational activities in ECA (agenda item 10)

10. A review of the critical situation of the extrabudgetary resources needed for operational activities in ECA

The Committee will be appraised of the state of extrabudgetary resources and their implications on the operational activities of the Commission in the context of the recent measures taken by the funding agencies of the United Nations. This includes the new orientation adopted by the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Development Programme in the delivery of technical assistance in programme and project execution. The General Assembly, by its draft resolution A/C 2/46 L.103 adopted on 5 December 1991, has directed that all United Nations organizations should strive to strengthen the field of operational activities. The Committee will be asked to provide guidance on a new orientation to prevent the decline of operational activities (document E/ECA/CM.18/21).

11. Any other business (agenda item 11)

Under this agenda item, any matters which delegations may wish to raise will be considered.

12. Date and venue of the fourteenth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole (agenda item 12)

Under this agenda item, the meeting may wish to suggest the dates and venue of its next meeting bearing in mind that it should be held in the same venue as that of the Conference of Ministers and a few days prior to the Conference.

13. Adoption of the report (agenda item 13)

The meeting will examine and adopt the report together with draft resolutions for consideration by the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers.

14. Closure of the meeting (agenda item 14)

After the adoption of the report, the meeting will be declared closed.